

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 SAJ-01 SAM-01 OMB-01 /070 W

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P R 190420Z MAR 75

FM USLO PEKING

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3419

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

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CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, CH

SUBJECT: SECOND SESSION OF NPC STANDING COMMITTEE GRANTS AMNESTY TO  
WAR CRIMINALS

1) NCNA MARCH 18 REPORTED THAT THE SECOND SESSION OF THE NPC  
STANDING COMMITTEE WAS HELD AT THE GREAT HALL OF THE PEOPLE MARCH 17-  
18

AND GRANTED AMNESTY TO THE 293 "WAR CRIMINALS" REMAINING IN PRC  
PRISONS. THE ACTION WAS ANNOUNCED BY VICE PREMIER AND PUBLIC SECURITY  
MINISTER HUA KUO-FENG AND WAS SAID TO HAVE BEEN TAKEN ON  
INSTRUCTIONS FROM CHAIRMAN MAO AND CENTRAL COMMITTEE. THE MEASURE  
WAS PROPOSED BY PREMIER CHOU EN-LAI. ACCORDING TO THE NCNA RELEASE,  
OF THE 293 RELEASED 219 WERE MILITARY OFFICERS, 21 WERE PARTY AND  
GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND 50 WERE SECRET AGENTS. TWO WERE SAID TO  
BE "MANCHUKO PUPPETS" E.E. COLLABORATORS WITH JAPNESE IN MANCHURIA) AND

ONE A WAR CRIMINAL OF THE INNER MONGOLIAN AUTONOMOUS GOVERNMENT.

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2) THE STANDING COMMITTEE ANNOUNCED THAT ALL RELEASED PRISONERS WOULD BE GIVEN WORK, MEDICAL CARE OF PROVIDED A LIVLIHOOD AS THEIR CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRED, AND ALL WERE OFFERED FREEDOM TO GO TO TAIWAN WITH ALL EXPENSES PAID. THOSE WHO WISH TO RETURN AFTER GOING TO TAIWAN WILL BE WELCOMED BACK. NEXT STEP APPARENTLY WILL BE GATHERING OF ALL 293 IN PEKING FOR A MEETING WITH PRC LEADERS AND A BANQUET.

IN ADDITION TO ANNOUNCING THE AMNESTY MEASURE, THE STANDING COMMITTEE HEARD A REPORT BY VICE PREMIER YU CHIU-LI ON THE NATIONAL ECONOMIC PLAN AND STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER LI SU-WEN REPORTED ON THE PRECAUTIONS TAKEN AND THE RELIEF WORK DONE IN THE LIAONING EARTH-QUAKE. THE SESSION REPORTEDLY ALSO APPOINTED LO CHING-CHANG, WU HSIN-YU, LI CHIN-TEH AND SHA CHIEN-LI DEPUTY SECRETARIES -GENERAL OF THE NPC STANDING COMMITTEE AND NOMINATED AND RELIEVED A NUMBER OF AMBASSADORS.

4) COMMENT: COMING IN THE MIDST OF THE CURRENT CAMPAIGN AGAINST BOURGEOIS ELEMENTS AND CAPITALISTS, THE TIMING SEEMS SURPRISING AND THE REPEATED REFERENCES TO THE CORRECTNESS OF THE DECISION GIVES IT A SOMEWHAT DEFENSIVE RING. IT APPEARS TO US THAT THE MAIN FOCUS IS ON TAIWAN, AND THE POLICY OF PERMITTING THE RELEASED WAR CRIMINALS TO FREELY VISIT THERE SEEMS A CONTINUATION AND EXTENSION OF THE POSTURE

ADOPTED IN CONNECTION WITH THE FEBRUARY 28 COMMEMORATION OF THE TAIWAN

UPRISING WHEN EMPHASIS WAS PLACED ON PRC WILLINGNESS TO RECEIVE VISITORS FROM TAIWAN AND GUARANTEE THEIR SAFETY.

5) THE ANNOUNCEMENT ALSO PROBABLY SIGNALS A RETURN TO GREATER ACTIVITY OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE NPC, AND WE MAY NOW BEGIN TO SEE MORE OR LESS REGULAR SESSION HELD TO RATIFY DECISIONS OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, THIS IS THE FIRST MAJOR ROLE OF THIS TYPE PLAYED BY HUA KUO-FENG, AND IT CONTNUES HIS RISE TO PROMINENCE NOTED BY USLO AND HONG KONG AT THE TIME OF THE FOURTH NPC.

6) THE GRAND GATHERING OF FORMER WAR CRIMINALS IN PEKING MAY GIVE US AN OPPORTUNITY TO SEE MORE CLEARLY JUST WHO THE PERSONALITIES INVOLVED

WILL BE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO HONG KONG'S COMMENTS ON INDIVIDUALS REPORTED IN THE ANNOUNCEMENT AND TO ANY THOUGHTS EMBASSY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TAIPEI MAY HAVE ON THE REACTION OF THE ROC.  
BUSH

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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